

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Wise on 09/24/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 15-18 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 5-6, 12, 19-21 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's argument is persuasive. The prior art of record does not disclose or fairly suggest either in singly or in combination a thermal treatment device having among other elements, a supporting portion is formed from a silicon plate-like member, a thickness of the supporting portion is not less than 3 mm and not more than 10 mm, as recited in claims 1, 6, 19, and 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to (Vikki) Hoa B. Trinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-1719. The Examiner can normally be reached from Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM Eastern Time. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Ms. Davienne Monbleau, can be reached at (571) 272-1945. The office fax number is 571-273-8300.

Any request for information regarding to the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Also, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public Pair. In addition, status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. If you have questions pertaining to the Private PAIR system, please contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). Lastly, paper copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications have ceased to be mailed to applicants with Office actions since June 2004. Paper copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature will continue to be included with office actions. These cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. Applicants are referred to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197 for information on this policy.

Art Unit: 2893

Requests to restart a period for response due to a missing U.S. patent or patent application publications will not be granted.

/(Vikki) Hoa B Trinh/
Examiner, Art Unit 2893

/Davienne Monbleau/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2893